

# School Board Backs State Probe on Bid Collusion

Your Complete Community Newspaper—Every Sunday and Thursday

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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46th Year—No. 66

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1960

10¢ Per Copy 44 PAGES

# CITY LAUNCHES HUGE ANNEX BID

## Petitions to Annex to City Go to Council

Petitions representing 25 per cent of the residents of a ¼ square mile area north of El Camino College were presented to the city council Tuesday night as a step toward annexation of the area to the city. Proposed for annexation is an area bounded on the north by Compton Blvd. on the west by Prairie Ave. on the south by Manhattan Beach Blvd., and on the east by Van Ness Ave. It would be connected to the present Torrance boundary by a shoestring up Crenshaw Blvd. east of El Camino College.

PETITIONS containing 947 valid signatures (10 over the minimum required) were presented by Asst. City Atty. Robert K. Dower, who described the petitions as "step six" in the annexation procedure. A public hearing to receive protests on the annexation will be held on Tuesday evening, Sept. 6, and an election can be held 54 days later, Dower said.

SIGNATURES ON the petitions submitted Tuesday by Dower have been certified by Registrar of Voters Benjamin Hite, the council was told. William Sterling, president of the El Camino Civic Assn., said many more signatures could have been obtained had the group had more time. He said he and other civic leaders had worked about two weeks to obtain the signatures presented Tuesday.

"I WANT TO thank the city for extending this invitation to us to join one of the Southland's finest cities," Sterling told the councilmen. A resolution of intention to hold an election for the purpose of annexing the area to Torrance was adopted unanimously by the council.

THE ANNEXATION proceedings launched Tuesday are separate from the dispute now raging over Lawndale's instant annexation of Alondra Park two weeks ago. A suit brought by Cece Hollingsworth, longtime leaseholder on the clubhouse concession at the park was tossed out of court Monday on the grounds that Hollingsworth had no standing as a leasee.

THE COUNTY board of supervisors Tuesday ordered the county counsel to check into the legal aspects of Lawndale's action and take whatever steps deemed necessary to protect the county's interest in the park.

A taxpayers' suit on behalf of Harmon Belcher and John Mulvihill of North Torrance was filed Tuesday by Atty. John Barton. The suit is directed at the Board of Supervisors, seeking a writ of mandate from the court ordering the county to take appropriate legal steps to test the validity of the annexation by Lawndale.

With a reported increase in unauthorized door-to-door solicitation in Torrance, Gale Whitacre, city license inspector, has issued a warning to residents to check all persons making solicitations for proper identification in the form of permits issued by his office.

A wave of callers has hit Torrance, Whitacre said, and their activities embrace magazine subscriptions to the sale of burial lots and even some pleas for contributions to non-existent Little League teams. Whitacre pointed out that bonafide solicitors must carry a permit bearing their pictures and issued by his office. Before these solicitors may be granted permits they must clear with the Torrance Police Department, he added.

The license department also issued a warning to housewives in cautioning them not to admit solicitors into their homes until they are sure they have shown evidence that they are licensed by the city. The department said that interstate sales people, such as insurance salesmen, are not required by law to have city license, but should be asked to show their own identifications.



LAWNDALE'S? . . . The board of supervisors this week ordered the county counsel to check all legal aspects into the instant annexation of the huge Alondra Park recently over county protests. The board's action came after Torrance city officials fired off a series of letters to the board blasting their inaction of a week ago on the matter. If allowed to stand, the park facilities shown above would become part of the city of Lawndale.

(Herald Photo)

## Board Okays Query

An investigation by Attorney General Stanley Mosk in connection with a government case against leading manufacturers of folding gymnasium bleachers received the full backing of the Torrance Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday night.

The board was told by Asst. Supt. S. E. Waldrip that the federal government had been conducting an investigation for some time to determine "whether or not financial injury has been suffered by school districts because of possible collusion among the manufacturers of bleachers, resulting in artificially high prices."

The school district has acquired several sets of gymnasium bleachers including grandstands and rollout bleachers since July, 1955, school officials noted.

In joining the investigation, the Torrance schools are placing themselves in line to recover monetary damages and other compensation if the investigation leads to such an action, the board was told.

The federal and state investigations have apparently been under way for some time, Supt. J. H. Hull said yesterday.

## Council Closes Inquiry Into Water Main Dispute

Council inquiry into the facts surrounding extension of a city water main for a private development without sufficient deposit to cover the costs ended Tuesday after the council ignored a motion by Councilman Victor Benstead that the matter be turned over to the city attorney "because another councilman is involved."

Acceptance of a second report by Mayor George Stevens which answered specific questions posed two weeks ago by Mayor Albert Isen came after Councilman Willys Blount, owner of the apartments served by the extended water mains, detailed his part in the matter.

WHEN ASKED if he had a statement, Blount replied soberly that there had been a "lot of conversation," but that he had not intended to speak out on the matter.

"However, now is a good time for me to do so," he added.

The Councilman told of borrowing the funds to construct the property at 233rd St. and Arlington Ave., and of engag-

ing former Councilman Robert B. Jahn as the contractor to construct them.

MR. JAHN IS NOT, and never has been involved financially in those four apartments," Blount emphasized.

"I consider Robert Jahn a friend of mine," Blount added.

Refuting reports that Jahn had evinced a financial interest in the development by listing it on the market for sale, Blount said the former councilman had been retained by Blount as his agent for the property "long before this thing came up," and that as Blount's agent, Jahn had been authorized to list the property. "I also signed the listing order as the owner a short time later," Blount said.

"I THINK MAC (Water Superintendent Angus McVicar) has been kicked around here," the councilman added. He proceeded in good faith."

Following Blount's statement, a motion made earlier by Councilman Nick Draie to file and close the case was renewed and carried.

In his report to the council, City Manager Stevens reported that two more payments had been made into the fund by adjoining property owners and that the balance owed the city now stood at \$1903.68.

IN A SEPARATE letter, McVicar denied that he had been placed under any pressure to

install the water main without sufficient funds on deposit.

"I want to state positively that at no time before or after this main extension was installed did Mr. Jahn or anyone else even suggest that this work be done at city expense," he wrote.

He explained that the water department had just completed two other main extensions in the area for Jahn for which they had received payment in full, and "had no reason to believe that it would not be made here."

McVICAR ALSO pointed out that the council had considered including such extensions in the South Torrance Assessment District shortly prior to the extension agreement (Feb. 25, 1959), but that it was found infeasible when the district was later formed.

McVicar has been reprimanded by the city manager for his part in the case, Stevens reported to the council.

## 10-Year-Old Dies In Auto Accident

A 10-year-old Torrance lad was one of four killed in a crash near Bakersfield Saturday and his 13-year-old brother was seriously injured.

Killed was Sammy Nardiello of 922 Sartori Ave. In grave condition following the crash was Terry Nardiello, only survivor of the five persons in the car driven by an aunt of the Nardiello boys.

## Tallon Joins MWD As Board Member

T. V. "Vince" Tallon has been elected a director of the Metropolitan Water District, according to word received this week. Tallon will assume the duties of his new post immediately.

Currently general manager and chief engineer of the Dominguez Water Corp., Tallon comes from a family which has long been associated with the Southland water business. His father, F. P. Tallon was a pioneer in the water works field and served as superintendent of the Dominguez Water Corp. from 1916 to 1943.

Tallon is a professional engineer and member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has been active in the management of the Dominguez firm for 17 years.

A charter member of the Dominguez-Carson Rotary Club, he has been active in community affairs. He served two years as president of the club. A member of the American Water Works Assn., Tallon served as president of the Long Beach Operating Engineers Assn. and is currently the vice president of the West Basin Municipal Water Assn.

The new director is also a member of the board of directors of the Central Basin Water Assn.



WATER OFFICIALS MEET . . . T. V. Tallon (center) general manager and chief engineer of the Dominguez Water Corp. is congratulated on his election to the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District. From the left are Harvey Banks, director of water resources for the State of California; Joseph Jensen, chairman of the board and chief engineer for MWD, Tallon, William Farquhar and Robert Austin, directors of the MWD.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think the new civic center building plan is in keeping with the progress of Torrance?" This question was answered by the five people below:

John Hall, 839 Sartori Ave., steel worker: "It should have been started long ago. We must keep up with progress and neighboring cities. Our recreation facilities in 1941, when I came here, would be inadequate to take care of the population now. We must build to expand."

Mrs. Mary Taylor, manager Salvation Army Thrift Shop: "I don't know too much about the new civic center plans, but anything in keeping with progress I am for. We must do what is necessary, like the removal of parking meters, to help business."

Sgt. Rick Rickman, Torrance recruiting station: "With Torrance growing the way it is I think the civic center plan is in keeping with the trend of the area. I think people will be more likely to buy homes and live here if they see modern improvements like these."

Amy Newsom, Singer Sewing Center: "I am for anything that will improve the city. New buildings and expansions naturally bring prosperity. Of course it will mean extra taxes, but we must spend if we expect to receive the benefits."

Jack Packard, supermarket clerk: "I am all for the planned civic center and think the location surrounding the present city building is good. It is in the hub of the city and will improve Torrance in every way. I hope the plan goes over."

## Thief Grabs Bills In Auto Accident

A sneak thief eluded pursuers in the downtown area just before noon yesterday after taking an undetermined amount of money from the cash register at Archie's Market, 1617 Cabrillo Ave.

Owner Archie Ness said the man, described by witnesses as a male Mexican, had crouched down in the check stand and was taking money from the register when spotted. He ran from the store, dropping bills as he went, and disappeared in building contractor's supply yard on Border Ave.

## Girl Hurt On Fun Ride

Serious injuries were received by Dixie Miller, 14, when she was thrown from a carnival ride in Ontario last Wednesday evening, according to the girl's mother, Mrs. Kenneth Miller, of 2426 W. 236th St., Lomita.

The girl had gone to the carnival while visiting friends in Ontario and the accident occurred while she was on a ride called "The Whip," Mrs. Miller said.

The Miller girl received shoulder, arm and neck injuries, and body bruises, her mother claimed. She was returned to the home of the friends she was visiting with, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Marshall.



MEETS CANDIDATE . . . Charles Soderstrom, chairman of the 17th Congressional District, meets briefly with Vice President Richard Nixon. Soderstrom of San Pedro was an alternate delegate to the Chicago convention of the Republican Party last month. He spoke to local Republicans last week, reporting on the convention and upcoming presidential campaign.